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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Anthony George, Pastor, Aloma Baptist Church, Winter Park, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Our Father in heaven, we come to You this day acknowledging Your greatness, thanking You for Your benevolent and providential guidance in the founding and sustaining of this great Nation.

In these times of uncertainty as nations rage against us, we humbly ask that You protect our people by Your intervening mercy, that You grant favor to our troops in their efforts to preserve the hope of freedom, and that You bless our President and the men and women of this Chamber in all their deliberations which they undertake for the safety and prosperity of our great country.

Help us in our efforts to eliminate poverty, oppression and wickedness, and empower us to pursue truth, justice and righteousness.

Though our sins are many, we ask that You show us mercy. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage that we fail not man nor Thee. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KELLER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR ANTHONY GEORGE OF ALOMA BAPTIST CHURCH

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome today's guest chaplain, Pastor Anthony George of Aloma Baptist Church in Winter Park, Florida. Thanks to Pastor George's leadership, Aloma Baptist is making a difference in central Florida and beyond. Let me give you some examples.

When Hurricane Katrina hit a little more than a year ago, Aloma Baptist Church acted, immediately dispatching teams to the gulf coast to provide humanitarian relief. Today, 1 year later, teams from Aloma Baptist have stayed the course and are still helping our gulf coast neighbors rebuild. And in central Florida, through Aloma Baptist Great Days of Service campaign, church members have gone into my community and poured countless hours into efforts like feeding the homeless, volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House, and mentoring children at summer camps.

Mr. Speaker, my community and this country are better places today because this humble country preacher from Mississippi came to central Florida to serve God and serve people. Pastors from across the country could learn a thing or two from Anthony George about how to build a difference-making church.

PERILS OF AMATEUR STRATEGY

(Mr. SKELTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, in 1926, Sir Gerald Ellison published the book,

"Perils of Amateur Strategy," the subject of which was a disastrous British campaign at Gallipoli in 1915. Here we are, in 2006, and we find that the Bush administration is busy writing its sequel, "Perils of Amateur Strategy II," about the misadventure of the American attempt in Iraq. The high hopes of bringing stability and democracy are fading, mainly because of strategic mistakes that were avoidable.

These mistakes include the diplomatic failure to ensure passage for our troops through Turkey at an early phase of the war; disbanding the Iraqi army; failure to control the looting after the fall of Baghdad; the failure to secure the weapons caches; and of course the failure to use enough troops to successfully complete the mission.

In addition thereto, Mr. Speaker, on another subject, I note the failure of this Congress to fully implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. Mr. Speaker, we must not adjourn until we pass those recommendations into law, which will prepare us against future terrorist attacks.

BULGARIAN MIRACLE CONTINUES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today is a joyous day for the people of Bulgaria. This week, the European Commission recommended Bulgaria be admitted into the European Union in January 2007. In less than 16 years, Bulgaria has successfully transitioned from a Communist totalitarian regime into a free market democracy.

Just 3 years ago, I was honored to be at the White House with former Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg Gotha as Bulgaria was admitted into NATO. Bulgaria has proven to be a true ally in

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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